

I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:

1. A lane maker, comprising:

a plurality of interconnected traffic control cones, each of said traffic control cones comprising:

5 a base, said base including a lane marker rotatably attached thereto and at least one anchor fixedly attached thereto;

said lane marker comprising a housing, a tape, said tape being retractable within said housing, and a hitch at the free end of said tape, said hitch being configured to be releasably connected to an anchor on an

10 adjacent cone; and

a conical cap extending upwardly from said base.

2. A lane maker as in claim 1 further comprising a light module mounted on said base behind said lane marker.

3. A lane maker as in claim 2 wherein said light module comprises a
15 sensor, an electronic circuit, and a light, said sensor being responsive to external conditions to control the status of said light.

4. A lane maker as in claim 3 wherein said sensor is responsive to one of the following to turn on the light: motion, particular audible sounds, incident light, and the level of light.

5. A lane maker as in claim 1 wherein said tape comprises a highly visible, web-like material, said material being flexible enough to coil within said housing.

6. A lane maker as in claim 1 wherein said hitch is designed either to become unattached to the anchor to which it is attached, due to the rotational torques imposed on said tape by said cone tipping over, or to break away from said tape, when subjected to a force beyond a preselected threshold.

7. A lane maker as in claim 1 wherein said tape comprise a material from one of the following: electro-fibers, solar fibers, glass-beaded webs, and an ultra-bright reflective material.

8. A lane maker as in claim 1 wherein said cones are color-coded to indicate the type of activity from which the traffic is being separated.

9. A traffic control cone, comprising:

a base, said base including a lane marker rotatably attached thereto

5 and at least one anchor fixedly attached thereto;

said lane marker comprising a housing, a tape, said tape being retractable within said housing, and a hitch at the free end of said tape, said hitch being configured to be releaseably latched to said anchor; and

a conical cap extending upwardly from said base.

10 10. A traffic control cone as in claim 9 further comprising a light module mounted on said base.

11. A traffic control cone as in claim 10 wherein said light module comprises a sensor, an electronic circuit, and a light, said sensor being responsive to external conditions to control the status of said light.

12. A traffic control cone as in claim 11 wherein said sensor is responsive to one of the following to turn on the light: motion, particular audible sounds, incident light, and the level of light.

13. A traffic control cone as in claim 10 wherein said light module is
5 mounted on said base behind said lane marker.

14. A traffic control cone as in claim 9 wherein said conical cap comprises conical segments which are capable of being collapsed to nest within the bottom segment and of extending into a full-sized cone.

15. A traffic control cone as in claim 14 further comprising manually
10 operable constraining means for maintaining said segments in said extended, full-sized cone status.

16. A traffic control cone as in claim 9 wherein the horizontal cross-section of said conical segments are one of the following: circular, rectangular, and square.

17. A traffic control cone as in claim 9 wherein said tape comprises a highly visible, web-like material, said material being flexible enough to coil within said housing.

18. A traffic control cone as in claim 17 wherein said hitch is designed
5 either to become unattached to the anchor to which it is attached, due to the rotational torques imposed on said tape by said cone tipping over, or to break away from said tape, when subjected to a force beyond a preselected threshold.

19. A traffic control cone as in claim 17 wherein said tape comprise a
10 material from one of the following: electro-fibers, solar fibers, glass-beaded webs, and an ultra-bright reflective material.

20. A lane maker for use with a traffic control cone, said lane maker comprising:

a housing rotatably mounted on the base of said traffic control cone or barrel; and

5 a reflective tape retractably coiled within said housing, said tape including a hitch attached to its free end, and said tape being extendable to connect said hitch to an adjacent traffic control cone.